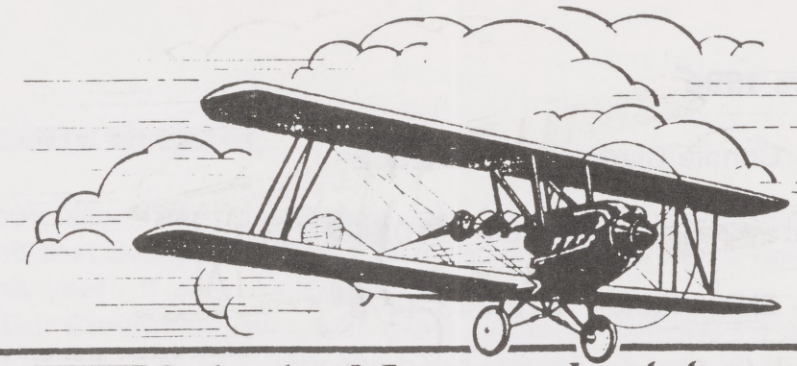

VAA Newsletter

Vintage Aeroplane Association Of California, Inc.

President Connie Clark 310/835-2562 **Editor** Bill Mallory 818/242-6394

JANUARY 1995

IN MEMORIUM

MALCOLM (MAL) STRATFORD
3/18/18 - 12/5/94

LEO GAY
8/8/30 - 1/9/95

VAAC Officers 1995

President - - - Connie Clark 310/835-2562

Vice President - - - Sture Folkeson 310/973-7284

Secretary - - - Elaine Forker 818/343-4478

Treasurer/Membership - - - Bill Mallory
410 E. Fairview #4, Glendale, CA 91208 818/242-6394

Sergeant-at-Arms - - - VACANT

Activities Chair - - - VACANT

Newsletter Editor - - - Bill Mallory 818/242-6394

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August - - - Hawthorne Air Faire.
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October - - - Pot Luck at the Herman's.
November - - - General Meeting at Glendale College, November 17, 7:30 p.m.
December - - - Christmas Party.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Happy New Year to everyone. We hope your celebrations were happy, and that everyone has made their list of New Years Resolutions, to be kept this year! If only we could manage that.

Our Christmas party was great, although we will be discussing the subject of trying to talk with the band playing. It was all the better because Leo Gay was able to join us - only a short time after his surgery for a brain tumor. It was so good to see him there.

Our first meeting of the year will be a general meeting at Glendale College.

CURRENT EVENTS

Our event for this month will be a general meeting at Glendale College. The date is January 20 at 7:30 p.m. We always look forward to these meetings since we see friends that we seldom see except at meetings, and a chance to meet new friends. As we would like to increase our membership, invite a friend, and we'll see you on the 20th.

FROM THE EDITOR

I always enjoy putting this letter together even though I feel pressured occasionally. It is times like this that I don't enjoy it, the announcement of the passing of two dear, good friends, Mal Stratford and Leo Gay. I feel compelled to write pages and pages about these two wonderful men, men that have touched me deeply, men that have been so active in aviation, society and their country. The passing of Mal and Leo has left a hole in my heart and I am sure yours as well.

Ceci Stratford submitted this wonderful obit for Mal. Thank you Ceci and our hearts go out to you.

MALCOLM STRATFORD flew to New Horizons on December 5, 1994 after a long bout with Alzheimer's Disease. Mal started flying in 1941 when he became a U.S. Army Air Corps Cadet. He flew B-17's in World War II in the North African campaign and C-46's in the Korean conflict. His career spanned 40 years in the aviation and aerospace industries. He retired from the Air Force Reserve as a Colonel in 1968. He met Ceci in 1975 when she was learning to fly. Together they owned a Cherokee 140 which they have flown all over, including a trip to Alaska for the 99's convention. Mal joined the Vintage Aeroplane Association with Ceci in 1976 and was very active with the group, endearing everyone with his quick wit, sparkling blue eyes and sweet demeanor. Memorials have been established with the Southern California Wing, Confederate Air Force, P.O. Box 2871 Camarillo, CA 93011 and the Los Angeles Chapter, Alzheimer's Association, 5900 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90036.

Leo Gay passed away January 9. He was born August 8, 1930 and worked for the Northrop Corporation for 29 years, retiring in April 1991.

There are many people in the VAA that knew Leo much longer than I did so I contacted Frank Compton and he sent me this for inclusion in the letter.

As we get older our friends and acquaintances one by one fall by the wayside and we grieve for a spell than get back on track with our lives. This sort of thing is never ending and becomes more frequent as the sunset years roll bye. As for me however, when Leo did it was different, I was really shaken-up. even tho I knew his days were numbered, I didn't face up to the fact that his passing was near at hand. When I woke up to the reality of things, I spent hours thinking about all the great times we had together, both in association with the Vintage Aeroplane Club, the Western Air Museum group and at Northrop where we worked together on the same projects. Yes, Leo was a special friend indeed and he will always be in my thoughts.

In talking with many of Leo's other friends over the past week or so - I found that Leo's passing had affected them in much the same way. We all agreed that his outreaching friendliness, mannerisms, intellect, special personality and never fading enthusiasm, all a part of his grand make-up, left an indelible mark on everybody that knew him. We all loved Leo and will miss him so very much.

Our thoughts and prayers are also for June and the family. Thank you Frank, you said it well.

At the general meeting we will ask for donations for the memorials for Mal, and to plant some trees in memory of Leo.

Several of us in the group have decided that Santa Ynez must go on. We are planning to hold the event in July. We may need to call on you for help. Also we may need to rely on members to help us get speakers, Leo was responsible for so very many of them.

Please look at the Calendar of Events and mark out the dates shown, other dates will be included as they are firmed-up.

Keep the dues coming in. With the increase in postage we need the revenue more than ever. Remember, $10.00 per year, what a deal.

COMING EVENTS

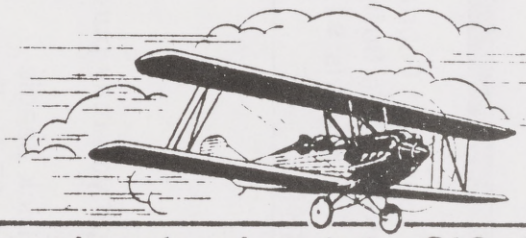
Our event for the month of February will be a Buffet at the San Pedro Elk's Club on February 26. The Buffet starts at 5:00 p.m. and dancing will begin at 5:30 p.m. The price is $12.50 per person including tax and tips. More in the next letter.

BADGES

If you need a badge you may purchase them for $5.00 each from:

Dick Beagle
1417 N. Tower
Santa Ana, CA 92706

GENERAL MEETING
GLENDALE COLLEGE
JANUARY 20, 7:30 P.M.



Vintage Aeroplane Association Of California, Inc.

PASADENA, CA
PM
17 JAN
1995
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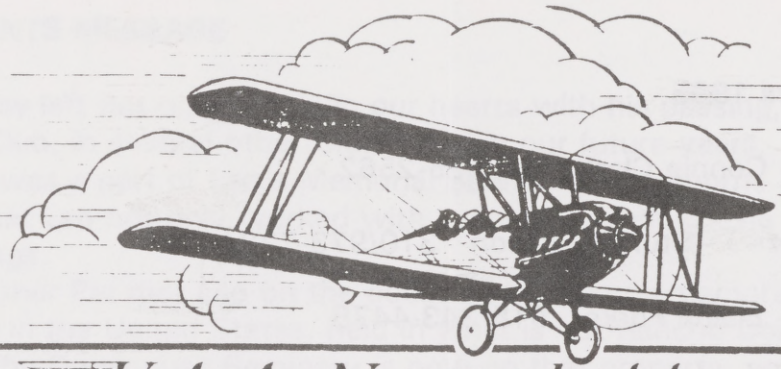
William L. Mallory
410 E. Fairview #4
Glendale, CA 91207

Mrs. Maggie Davis Life
2001 Pan American Plaza
Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101

Dated Material



VAA Newsletter

Vintage Aeroplane Association Of California, Inc.

President Connie Clark 310/835-2562 **Editor** Bill Mallory 818/242-6394

FEBRUARY 1995

BUFFET AT THE SAN PEDRO ELK'S CLUB. FEBRUARY 26, 5:00 P.M. CALL CONNIE FOR RESERVATIONS BEFORE FEB. 18. MAP IS INSIDE.

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Vice President - - - Sture Folkeson 310/973-7284

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Leo Gay left not only a hole in our hearts with his passing, but a hole in our Club, in several other Clubs, and in our future years. Father Pat McPolin was a part of Leo's Memorial Service at Hawthorne Airport, and stated that Leo not only worked with special happenings, he created special happenings.

Father Pat met Leo on the occasion of the commemoration of the First Air Meet in the United States, held in what is not Rancho Dominguez, in 1910. The Dominguez Seminary is now on that property, and Leo approached Father Pat about having the fly-in there. It was an incredible weekend, and Leo made it happen.

Leo also made Wings and Wheels happen, and Leo did it all for the VAA. We just always expected Leo to be there for us. He did so much. He knew everybody. It just won't be the same without him.

However, Santa Ynez will go on. We have had several people volunteer to help, and with June's help, I have called several people involved with Wings and Wheels and have learned so much. It will take an entire committee on our part to replace Leo, but we cannot replace his special touch. One other point on Santa Ynez will be a change of date, for at least the next two years. Perhaps from now on. It is being moved to July 14, 15, and 16 this year as the Horseless Carriage Club is having their National Tour on our regular date. Next year, our regular date will be on the 4th of July weekend, so it will be moved one week. I have heard from many people approving of the change of date, one other reason being that it will not conflict with the Cub fly-in at Lompoc. So let us know your thoughts on a permanent change of one week later, and for this year - mark your calendars now. Change your Motel reservations, arrange your vacations, whatever your need to do to come to the "Leo Gay Memorial Wings and Wheels Tour".

Our January meeting was dedicated to Leo and Mal Stratford. We had an informal time, sharing memories and watching color slides of Leo and Mal. Don Johnson also showed other slides from 1971 to 1983. Thanks so much Don, for those special memories.

Our February Social will be a departure from our usual pot-luck, and sounds like lots of fun. Dave Bean has arranged this for us, and we will need reservations to save enough tables for our group. All of you South Bay members and friends, put this on your calendars now, and the rest of you

that are scattered throughout our area - it's not that far by freeway. Come join us.

CURRENT EVENTS

As Connie has mentioned, this months event will be a slight departure from the usual pot-luck. We partake of a Buffet at the San Pedro Elk's Club on February 26 at 5:00 p.m. The cost is $12.50 per person and you need to let Connie know no later than February 18 you are planning to attend. She can be reached at 310/835-2562. This should be a really great evening, one that we need to partake of and enjoy. See you there. A map to the Elk's Club is enclosed.

FROM THE EDITOR

This past month has been an absolute nightmare. With the passing of Leo, Mal, and "Spence" Spencer I have been deluged with articles, phone calls and yes, checks for memorials. Thank you all for your concerns, I am sorry that I can not include everything that I received in this letter. These three gentlemen were of such stature that I feel mentioning them in a later issue would be in line, and yes, even welcome.

The dues are coming in and are certainly needed. I have lost the lithographer that I have been using for reproducing the pictures for the letter and am having a devil of a time finding one that is reasonable. The reproducing of the pictures if a major expense in the letter. If any of you know of a lithographer (prefer in the S.F. Valley) that might help us out, let me know.

Also, due to the amount of information and possible changes to schedules and dates, I am getting this letter out close to the deadline for the February event. I apologize and therefore, I am also putting the announcement on the cover, where the picture would normally be.

If you look at the Roster of Officers, you will see a new name. At the last meeting "Chappy" Czapiewski volunteered to be Sergeant-at-Arms. He has already let me know he is going to be mean, just show up without a badge at a meeting and you will find out.

Kidding aside, I have known "Chappy" for some time and he has my utmost respect. He is a real go-getter that has a deep love for aircraft and aviation and the people that made and make it tick. He is responsible for the Mayor of Burbank declaring February as Aviation Month. Thanks "Chappy".

As many of you know, Percival "Spence" Spencer passed away in his sleep at the age of 97. He made his first solo flight in 1914 and was a licensed pilot through 1987. He was honored in 1986 by the Early Birds of Aviation, a society whose membership is restricted to those who flew solo before 1916. The group called Spencer the Dean of American pilots by designating him as having "the longest active flight record in aviation history." According to Dale Anderson, a longtime friend and business associate there are not only three surviving members of the Early Birds. Anderson and Spencer were partners in the Spencer Amphibian Air Car Co. of Pacoima, which manufactured kits for home-built four place amphibious planes between 1967 and 1990. Spencer worked as an airline and military test pilot before taking up airplane design and building the Amphibian Air Car No 1 in the early 1940's. The Republic Aviation Corp. bought Spencer's patent on the plane in 1943 and built the Republic Sea Bee based on his design. A Memorial was held at the Dominguez Seminary on February 11. Father Pat McPolen officiated at the service, followed by refreshments in the patio, and a fly-by of 9 airplanes. Ed Clark flew the Sea Bee (designed by Spencer) in the tribute.

This comes from Connie Clark.

Memorial Services for Leo Gay at Hawthorne Airport

Tom Quintana of the City of Hawthorne arranged a Memorial Service for Leo Gay on January 28, 1995. It was held at Hawthorne Airport, so very appropriate with all of the memorable Air Faire's that Leo has helped to put on.

There were many aircraft on display, including Clay Lacy's P-51 which would scatter Leo's ashes. Mixed in were antique cars and military vehicles representing Leo's many interests. It was a beautiful display and quite impressive. There were fly-bys before and after the ceremony, including Mike Walsh in his white Waco in formation with other Waco's from Chino, and Bruce Mulvihill in one of the Bird Dogs.

Father Pat McPolin both opened and closed the Services, and many people shared memories of Leo, including Ed Clark, Clay Lacy, Larry Guidi the Mayor of Hawthorne. The Military Vehicle Club presented a plaque to June in memory of Leo, and the City of Hawthorne has dedicated the patio by the Administration Building on Hawthorne Airport as "The Leo Gay Square". John Innes and Jimmy Green played Dixieland music with the "Hyperion Outfall" group.
Chuck Norris (not the movie star) presented the traditional RAF Memorial on Bagpipes, beginning with "Taps". This was so inspiring and beautifully done.
Following the Ceremony were fly-bys by the Condor Squadron in the Missing Man Formation, various other aircraft- some with air-show smoke, and Clay Lacy leading a low pass-flight with another P-51 and a Hawker Sea Fury. On the second fly-by led by Clay, the outside aircraft stayed low, while Clay headed towards the heavens, waving goodbye with his wings, carrying Leo on his last flight, his ashes to be scattered.

Thank you Connie. You are right, the RAF Bagpipes were perfect for the occasion, and the final fly-by was something that Leo would love.

COMING EVENTS

Our event for the month of March will be a General Meeting at Glendale College. We have a wonderful speaker on tap for this meeting. More in the next letter. Block out March 17 at 7:30 p.m.

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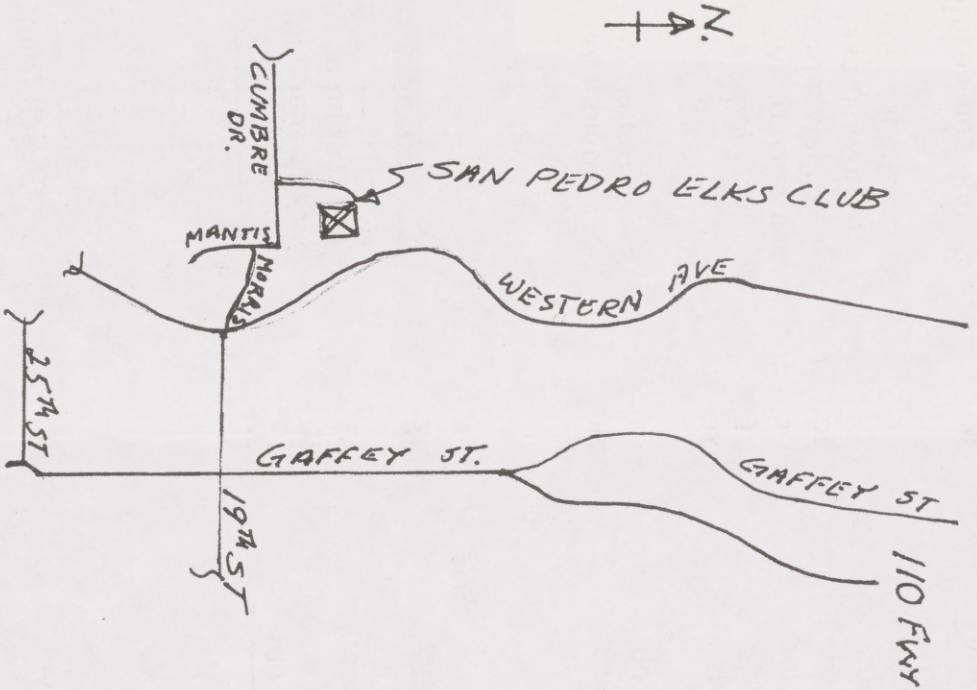
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CUMBRE DR.
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GAFFEY ST
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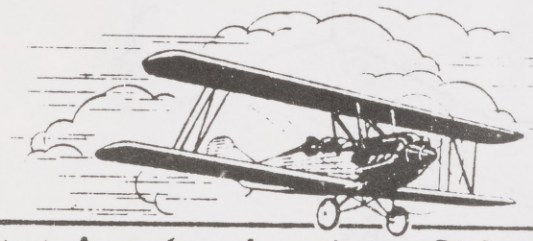


Vintage Aeroplane Association Of California, Inc.

William L. Mallory
410 E. Fairview #4
Glendale, CA 91207

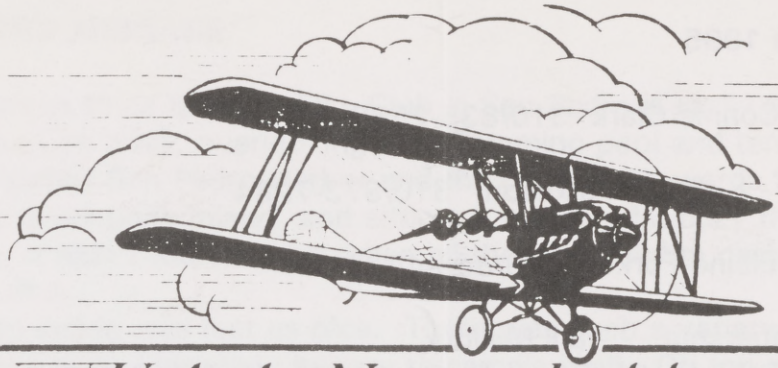
Dated Material

Mrs. Maggie Davis Life
2001 Pan American Plaza
Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101

92101-1636 '27

PASADENA, CA
PM
15 FEB 1995

Old Glory
USA G
For U.S. addresses only



VAA Newsletter

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President Connie Clark 310/835-2562 **Editor** Bill Mallory 818/242-6394

MARCH 1995

JEAN ARMSTRONG

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

A lot of us think that the Elks Club in San Pedro is really first class! It is located on a hill, overlooking the swimming pool and tennis courts, which overlook San Pedro Harbor and the coastline towards San Diego. The view also looks back inland, and although it was a bit hazy the evening of our party, it didn't matter a bit when all those city lights came on. It was just beautiful.

And inside was just as nice. There was such a variety of food, one would need to be incredibly hungry to sample it all. On top of that, there is the dance floor and a great band and vocalist. Most of us could even carry on a conversation while the band played. That was a definite plus. Jimmy and Billie Green were a treat to watch on the dance floor, as were several other couples. There were some talented dancers there.

So far things are going well in our desire to keep Wings and Wheels continuing. We have had several volunteers, most importantly Keith Smith, who will do the lions share of the work for VAA. He will take reservations, make badges, assign pilots to cars, and handle the registration at Santa Ynez airport. He has volunteered his Model A Club as well to help as needed. Elmer Ward and Mike Walsh have volunteered to help with the aircraft. So things are looking good at the present.

Our speaker for March will be quite unique, as several of our members already know. Our own Jean Armstrong will be telling you about here interesting career.

My daughter is expecting about the same time as our meeting, but if the Stork cooperates, I'll see you there. And Happy St. Patricks Day!. (My Mother came from Ireland).

CURRENT EVENTS

We are going to have a great speaker at our meeting March 17. I have heard several of the stories Jean Armstrong will more than likely tell. What has Jean Armstrong got to do with airplanes you may ask after looking at the picture on the cover. Jean has been handling animals all of her life, she has been a curator of animals at the New Orleans Zoo, and she ran a "Flying Noah"s Ark". She has been with all kinds of animals aboard aircraft. The most outstanding one was a C-54 with six elephants on board. Well,

enough, you must come to the meeting to hear this real life "Jungle Jenny" Don't forget, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. You had better wear your badges and some green.

FROM THE EDITOR

I agree with Connie, the Elks Club in San Pedro is fantastic. I have had several calls from individuals saying what a neat place, "maybe we could use it for our Christmas Party". Any way, I sure want to also than Dave and Betty Bean for setting it up for us.

As mentioned above, our speaker for this month will be Jean Armstrong. I have known Don and Jean for some time now, and they are two of the finest people I know. You must hear Jean tell her story (or parts of it). Don has the right idea about the VAA. Just this past week he and I were talking to an aircraft owner/pilot, and Don said "maybe he would like to come to one of our meetings. This has made me think again about the declining membership. Do we ask friends to come? Do we share our thoughts about VAA with others? Do we have an application for those we do talk to? I know I don't talk it up enough. Why don't we all try to actively recruit some new members. I will have application blanks at the meeting. Don has recruited several members, if each of us recruited one or two, we could increase our number remarkably.

Hope the rain and flu bug has not caused you trouble. I know my wife and I have sure been under the weather this past month. The wet weather sure doesn't help any in staying well.

The letters expressing sorrow at the passing of Mal and Leo continue to come in. I really don't know what to do with them. I think they are too much for the letter. I have thought about making them into a booklet form for all to have or see. I am sure open to ideas if you have any. Also, at the next meeting I would like to discuss what to do with the money sent in by people for memorials.

Dues are still coming in at a good pace. Remember, $10.00 per year. Also, please look at the address label, if you are more than a year behind, this will be you last letter. I have missed up-dating some dates by mistake, it you are one of those, please call me or let me know and I will rectify the mistake.

Remember, I am still looking for pictures to print in the letter. Black and white is preferred, but color is OK. I promise to return them to you.

Connie Clark was told by Austin Pell that we may have lunch this year at Santa Ynez at Fess Parker's Winery. Also, she has asked me to put the phone number in for the motels in the Solvang area for those that would like to reserve now.

King Frederik Inn 805/688-5515
Sanja Cota 805/688-5525
Santa Ynez Valley Inn (Formerly Holiday Inn) 805/688-1000

Another message from Connie. We have received our old photo album from our former Historian Norm Atchison. While it has some beautiful pictures in it, and were are most happy to have it, it is not the album with the big wooden covers. I have found out from Jim Cole that the most likely person to have done that album is Fred Larona. Does anyone know Fred and where we might locate him? Mark Herman, you were President about then. Or Don Johnson, or Phil Schultz, do you know Fred? Anyone having any information for us it would certainly be appreciated.

COMING EVENTS

Our event for the Month of April will be a pot luck at the Armstrong's. The date, April 30, the time 4:00 p.m. More in the next letter. If you were there last year you will remember the wonderful time had by all. If you missed, make it this year.

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GLENDALE COLLEGE
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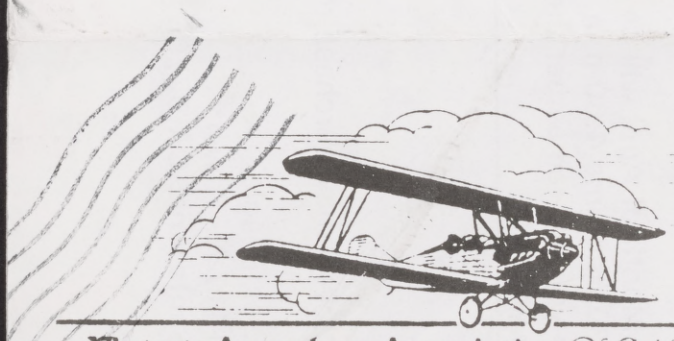

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